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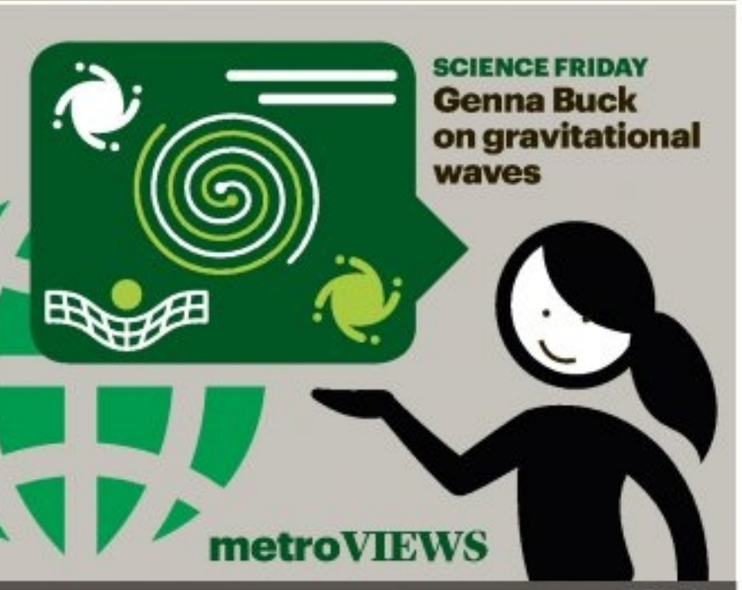

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# Rules needed on assisted dying: Lake

LEGISLATION

## 'Oversight organization' likely, health minister says

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

It's not clear whether British Columbia will need its own legislation around physician-assisted dying, according to Health Minister Terry Lake.

A special parliamentary committee made recommendations to the federal government on Wednesday that Canadians enduring intolerable suffering from grievous and irremediable medical conditions should be able to seek medical help to die with few obstacles.

The committee's recommendations are intended to guide the federal government as it crafts new legislation in the wake of a Supreme Court of Canada ruling last year that struck down the ban on assisted suicide.

Lake said many of the recommendations are in line with guidelines already drafted by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia and further provincial legislation may not be necessary.

What the province will need to do, Lake said, is create an oversight organization to safeguard vulnerable people and prevent abuse of physician-assisted dying when it becomes legal.

"An oversight organization probably involving the coroner will likely need to be created," Lake said.

Already, the minister is fielding questions about what will happen when health providers refuse to provide physician-assisted dying.

Providence Health, a subset of Vancouver Coastal Health that runs St. Paul's Hospital and other facilities, sent a memo to its clinical leadership team Feb. 16 saying physician-assisted dying "contradicts the basic tenets of Catholic health care wherein life is held to be sacred from conception to natural death and not permitted in Catholic health care institutions such as Providence."

Providence would not comment on the memo Thursday.

A spokesperson said it is reviewing the parliamentary committees' recommendations and will work closely with the Ministry of Health on a number of issues.

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French court OKs razing of makeshift migrant camp in Calais. **World**

# Americans in B.C. signing up to vote before Super Tuesday

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

## Memberships skyrocket as U.S. election creeps closer

**Thandi Fletcher**
Metro | Vancouver

American Democrats living in British Columbia aren't letting a border stop them from casting their ballots in the heated U.S. presidential race, says an organization that provides absentee ballots for U.S. citizens living abroad.

Maureen Harwood, chair of the Vancouver chapter for Democrats Abroad, said the group's membership is up nearly 10 per cent since January as American expatriates continue sign up to vote on next week's so-called Super Tuesday, the day on which the largest number of states hold their primaries and caucuses.

"Our membership right now is just going through the roof," Harwood told Metro. "People want to vote, and it's pretty critical. You have a major change of leadership coming in."

With an estimated 7.6 million Americans living abroad—about 90,000 of which are in the Lower Mainland, according to an estimate by the American consulate in Vancouver— that could have a significant impact on the 2016 presidential election.

As Democrats Abroad is a small group, an individual vote cast through the group also holds more weight than the same vote cast through a home state, said Harwood.

Still, she said ensuring that Democratic candidates have a fighting chance requires people actually get out and vote.

Describing the political rhetoric from Republican presidential candidates like Donald Trump as "disturbing," Harwood urged all Democrats living abroad to make the effort to participate in this election and vote for one of the party's two presidential candidates, Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders.

"It doesn't matter which one it is— they're both excellent candidates," she said. "But it's important that we counterbalance what the Republicans are doing, because I think the lunatics have taken over the asylum at this point. I've never been personally strongly anti-Republican, but what I'm hearing and what I'm seeing is very disturbing to me."

There is no Republican equivalent of Democrats Abroad to allow Republicans living outside of the U.S. to vote.

Democrats Abroad will have three voting centres in the Lower Mainland taking place March 1 and March 5 for the global presidential primary.

American Democrats aged 18 and older who wish to vote can bring their U.S. passport to the voting centre to cast a ballot.

Those who can't vote in person can also go online and download a ballot.

**Maureen Harwood, chair of the Vancouver chapter of Democrats Abroad,** is urging American Democrats to cast their ballots on Super Tuesday at one of three voting centres in the Lower Mainland. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

> **It's important that we counterbalance what the Republicans are doing,** because I think the lunatics have taken over the asylum. Maureen Harwood

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GPS IMPLANTS

# City votes to track criminals

A British Columbia community wants to take the extraordinary step of implanting high-risk and prolific offenders with GPS tracking devices in a bid to curb its crime problem.

City council in Williams Lake has voted unanimously in favour of a motion to support tracking the movement of criminals 24 hours a day by inserting microchips into their arms, although a U.S. company specializing in tracking technology says it isn't aware of such a device.

Coun. Scott Nelson acknowledged the city does not have the legal authority to use such a device and said it will seek approval from the federal and provincial governments.

"We understand and we recognize people's rights, but at the end of the day you've got to take a look, collectively, at what's at stake here," he said.

"Do we continue to live in fear because of a radical 20 people or 25 people in the community? Or does a collective community right supersede those people?"

The proposal comes after local RCMP released video of a 14-year-old boy's bike being stolen at gunpoint in a park.

Nelson said the program would only apply to adult offenders designated "high-risk" or "prolific" by the Mounties.

"These are the guys that are in and out of the court system, that really create the absolute havoc inside your community."

Beyond the legal questions, there might also be technological limitations on what Williams Lake is proposing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Ben Affleck, left, and Henry Cavill star in the upcoming movie Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice.** COURTESY WARNER BROS. PICTURES

# Holy science, Batman!

NEUROSCIENCE

## Researcher to host panel about Bruce Wayne's brain

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The Caped Crusader isn't just a crime fighter. Batman is also the perfect entry point for scientific debate and curiosity, according to a University of Victoria neuroscientist who is hosting "An Evening With Batman's Brain" next month with some of the foremost superhero academics around.

Paul Zehr already teaches a course on the science of Batman and has published a book exploring whether the human body can sustain the training — and abuse — required to become a real-life superhero. But his March 16 panel with U.S. researchers Travis Langley and Mark White promises to deliver more real-world "POW" for pop culture and science fans.

"The cool angle around this stuff is that it's from the perspective of Batman's brain," said Zehr. "We've got the psychological stuff coming from Travis Langley's perspective. We've got the philosophy coming from Mark White's perspective and other aspects of neuroscience coming from my perspective."

The trio of scientists, who have all published Batman-related books in their respective fields of study, will talk about subjects like post-traumatic stress disorder, concussions and the motivations and philosophical bent of Gotham's protector.

The fact Batman is fictional and that his stories are often completely unrealistic matters not, according to Zehr.

"There's a guy who wrote a book called The Physics of Superheroes called James Kakalio at the University of Minnesota. He talks about how it doesn't matter in the comic books whether the science is right or wrong," said Zehr.

More importantly, the enduring popularity of Batman provides an accessible springboard for experts to talk about real science with a large audience.

"By doing that, we're talking about something that's unrealistic and bringing it back to what is real," said Zehr. "So I'm going to be talking about the way injuries are shown is not at all accurate. That's a place where the comic books and the movies really do mislead us considerably about what human beings are actually capable of getting through. What can people recover from? What really does happen? It becomes a very useful access point."

A popular one, too.

Zehr said half of the seats for the just-announced panel at UVic's 1,200-seat Farquhar auditorium have already sold out.

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VANCOUVERING

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# Time to see the pot's half-full

## Veteran campaigner Conroy weeds out the truth in the marijuana debate after landmark ruling

CAFÉ POLITICS

**MARIJUANA**

**Neal Hall**
For Metro | Vancouver

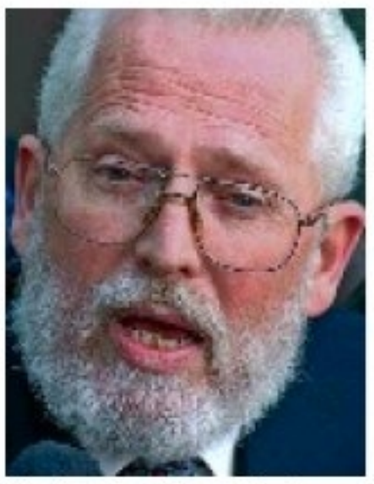
The landmark ruling this week by a Federal Court judge will force the federal government to fix the medical marijuana law found to be unconstitutional, says the lead lawyer on the court case.

Judge Michael Phelan ruled Wednesday that the medical marijuana regulations introduced by the Conservative government in 2013, banning medical pot users from growing their own plants, violated the constitutional rights of those who prefer to grow their own.

The judge struck down the regulations but gave the federal government six months to craft new legislation.

Lawyer John Conroy, who represented the four victorious B.C. plaintiffs, says the ruling gives the government an opportunity to also look at the issue of cannabis dispensaries.

"This is their opportunity to change the regulations but deal with dispensaries as well," says Conroy, 68, who has been fighting Canada's marijuana laws for almost 40 years — he was a founder in 1978 of the National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws in Canada.



**The interior of a medical marijuana operation in the Fraser Valley, and lawyer John Conroy.** JENNIFER GAUTHIER/ JEFF HODSON

"We've had (pot) compassion clubs and dispensaries in Vancouver going on 20 years," he points out. "Do we have a fallout in terms of medical use? No, the evidence is non-existent."

The proliferation of medical marijuana dispensaries in Vancouver — now more than 150, compared to about 20 before the Conservatives banned patients from growing their own — shows users "voted with their feet" and don't like buying the more expensive commercially grown pot, Conroy says

He also argues that cannabis should not be classified as an illegal drug but instead regulated as a natural health care product.

Conroy points out new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who has promised to legalize marijuana, could do so today with the stroke of a pen.

> **There's no lethal dose ... you can take too much but you can't die.**
> John Conroy

"Mr. Trudeau's government could simply pass an order-in-council by cabinet, removing cannabis from Schedule 2 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. The minute the government did that, arguably the natural health care producers regulations would cover (it) for medical purposes."

The federal government, he adds, needs to discuss with provincial governments and municipalities how to bring in reasonable measures to regulate marijuana, including how to dispense it.

(Already two drug store chains have suggested they would be able to dispense pot. There has also been discussion about government liquor stores selling pot, once it's legal.)

Whatever regime of distribution is chosen by government will be "better than prohibition, which drives it underground and drives organized crime," Conroy says.

"You need to remember," he adds, "that doctors prescribe all sorts of drugs that kill people. We have a serious problem (with) opiates. And when they cut those people off, they go to the streets and end up dying from overdoses of fentanyl."

Cannabis is not a drug that kills people like alcohol and tobacco, he says.

"There's no lethal dose of cannabis. Sure, you can take too much, especially edibles, and feel uncomfortable. But you can't die from it."

Wednesday's ruling also continues an injunction the judge granted last year, allowing medical marijuana users to continue growing their own plants. That affects about 28,000 Canadians who had been granted Health Canada exemptions to possess and grow their own before the new regulations were enacted.

Conroy points out that there are now roughly 40,000 people in Canada who have an exemption to legally possess pot but no new exemptions on growing have been issued since 2013.

Currently, medical marijuana users are allowed to possess a maximum of 30 times the daily amount identified by their health-care practitioner, or 150 grams, whichever is less.

Conroy says when the case was heard last year, the government's expert witnesses on the risks of cultivation — Surrey Fire Chief Len Garis and RCMP Cpl. Shane Holmquist — were found to be so biased against pot that their evidence was deemed unreliable.

Ultimately, he adds, the prohibition law that criminalized pot in 1923 — Canada's laws spells it marihuana — never worked.

"Cannabis is the most popular illicit drug," Conroy says.

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# VANCOUVERING

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# Fruit of the bloom

## Concerns over carbon footprint, working conditions and pesticide use have led to the rise of socially conscious flower businesses in Vancouver

**Amy Logan**
For Metro | Vancouver

VANCOUVER TRENDING **ETHICAL FLORISTS**

**Ethical florists aim to support local growers with flowers often grown in people's backyards, all are pesticide free.** COURTESY THE ROGUE FLORIST

Vancouver shoppers are a selective bunch; they search out the authentic and the exquisite, but they also want guilt-free options.

Concerns over fair wages and working conditions as well as chemical and water usage have prompted many consumers to peer behind the facade, and examine the flower business more closely.

A new breed of florists has emerged as a result, selling socially conscious flowers that are locally grown, pesticide-free, and ethically-sourced.

Megan Branson, owner of Olla Urban Flower Project (ollaflowers.ca), likens ethical flowers to the local food movement.

All of Olla Flowers' cut stems and greenery are locally sourced or come from fair trade farms, and some are hyper-local, grown in Vancouver backyards. She has a host of urban growers who harvest from their gardens in small batches. Everything is grown organically.

Olla Flowers sends waste to local composting facilities and works to reduce packaging. Her company also offers training and job opportunities for disadvantaged people in the Downtown Eastside.

Floral and Hardy in Strathcona also goes out of its way to source many flowers locally and to buy organic and non-GMO whenever possible. Their commitment to ethical, local products extends to the various crafts sold in the shop, from beeswax candles to local artwork.

Kerri Pfeifer, owner of The Rogue Florist (rogueflorist.com), seeks to support local farmers, and to forage for unique flowers and foliage, often gathered from local backyards. She aims not only to minimize imported flowers, but also to use wild and unexpected elements.

The Rogue Florist focuses mainly on weddings, but also does corporate parties and local events. It has partnered with Farmacie, a non-profit focused on raising money for local farms and charities.

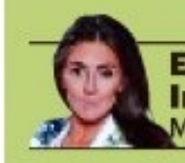
Pfeifer's creations are delicately detailed, with the intention of showcasing each flower in its "true form."

She points out that using locally abundant flowers is a fun way to showcase the beauty all around us.

FOOD NOTES **TIFFIN WALLA**

**Sarb and Ronica Mund**, the husband and wife team behind Tiffin Walla, a new cart at Robson Square. ERIN IRELAND/METRO

# Grab a taste of India à la cart



**Erin Ireland**
Metro | Vancouver

Food-truck season is just around the corner and this year, Street Food App is reporting five new vendors have hit the Vancouver pavement, including Chickpea Truck, El Cartel and Mr. Arancino.

Tiffin Walla, the "little sister" cart to the more experienced Soho Road Naan Kebab, is another new street-food business, and they've scored primetime placement at Robson Square. From Tuesday to Friday, co-owner Ronica Mund and her team will be serving up authentic Indian dishes that happen to be gluten free and vegan.

"It's the food we love to cook at home," she says.

The ever-changing menu will feature dishes like vegetarian sabji, channa masala (my personal favourite), yellow moong daal and aloo gobi.

What sets this food apart? Everything is made from scratch, including the masala and ground spice mixes. Recipes are born through loving competition between Ronica's mom and her friends. Winning dishes end up on their small but select menu.

Tiffin Walla strives to achieve zero-waste. Food is served in traditional three-tiered stainless steel "tiffin" containers, which customers have the option of buying for $15. Return with your tiffin and receive $1 off your meal. The cart is also solar-powered.

Find Tiffin Walla at Robson and Howe from Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m.–3 p.m., or with a minimum order of 10 tiffins and 48-hours notice, you can order delivery directly to your downtown office by calling 778-558-7272.

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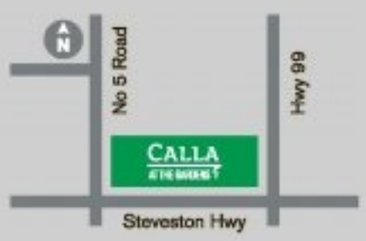


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# Homeless resist eviction with tent city block party

VICTORIA

## Camp on grounds of courthouse since last spring

Homeless campers facing eviction from their make-shift tent city on the grounds of Victoria's courthouse held a block party Thursday, complete with hot dogs, multi-coloured balloons and invited guests.

"This feels like a festival here," said Vancouver homeless activist Ivan Drury, who arrived on a bus with 44 other camp supporters from Metro Vancouver.

The party was billed as a show of defiance against the eviction deadline handed to the more than 100 people who have been living on the courthouse grounds in the city's downtown core for months.

"What I've heard from the outside is there is a strong sense of community in the tent city here and that community is a space of healing and growth for a lot of people who are survivors of trauma," said Drury, a spokesman for Alliance Against Displacement.

The party got off to a rough start Thursday morning as police cars arrived with sirens blaring to investigate an alleged assault at one of the camp's tents. But the mood was festive and buoyant in the afternoon as people shared their meals and chanted to drum beats.

**Residents at the homeless camp, also known as InTent City, held a block party at the camp in Victoria, Thursday with supporters coming over from Vancouver and Abbotsford during the planned soft eviction day.** CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

**100+**
There are more than 100 people living on the courthouse grounds.

Earlier this month, British Columbia's government gave campers a Feb. 25 deadline to move, but police and the province say they'd prefer people leave voluntarily as opposed to a forced eviction.

> That community is a space of healing and growth for a lot of people who are survivors of trauma. Ivan Drury

Housing Minister Rich Coleman said campers were packing up for shelters the province has provided and the situation at the camp will be monitored over the coming days.

"There's about 50 people who've accepted housing, so they'll be moving off and we'll measure it over the weekend to see how it's going," he said.

In recent weeks, the government and social agencies have reached deals on housing for up to 230 people, with shelter space at a former Boys and Girls Club, a seniors' residence and a vacant youth custody facility.

The camp grew from a few tents last spring to dozens as people from alleyways and parks moved to the highly visible manicured grounds of the downtown courthouse.

But only a handful of people were packing ahead of the party.

Benjamin Alexander, 30, from Quebec, was one of the few leaving. He said he is moving to the former youth jail after living in the courthouse camp for almost two months.

He said he considered living in city parks after several confrontations at shelters and the camp, including a beating in which he lost one of his front teeth and suffered facial wounds.

"Look at my tooth, somebody punched me," he said. "Look at my face. Everyday, they are like a wolf pack. You have trouble with one, you have trouble with everybody. I'm getting not psycho, but close to it."

Coleman said he's most concerned about helping the campers get housing and providing support services for people suffering from addictions and mental health, not provoking encounters with protesters.

"Whatever they want to do, block party or whatever. It makes no difference here because the only people I'm concerned about are the people who need help the most."

Drury said the government's shelter options are temporary and do not stop homelessness.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MINING

## Pollution penalties increase

The British Columbia government is imposing more oversight on the mining industry by boosting potential penalties for prosecutions to $1 million and three years in prison.

The new regulations emerge from recommendations in reports on the collapse of the Mount Polley tailings dam in B.C.'s Interior, which spilled millions of tonnes of mine waste into area waterways.

The province has been limited under the Mines Act to shutting down a mine by cancelling its permit, issuing a stop-work order or pursuing prosecutions, but the changes will now allow for monetary penalties to be imposed without going to court.

Mines Minister Bill Bennett said Thursday that the changes provide his ministry with more tools for compliance and enforcement to build a safer and more sustainable industry.

"The real advantage to what I'm doing here is giving the ministry the nimbleness, the flexibility, to levy an administrative penalty quickly, without having to go to court."

Bennett said his goal is to ensure the province has the best regulatory regime in the world for health and safety on mine sites.

The $1-million prosecution penalty and extended jail time is enough to ensure compliance, Bennett said.

"Offence prosecutions are only done where you've got a really bad actor," he said. "It's rare and I don't know the last time that we had to do this, certainly not any time that I've been minister."

Bennett said the only time the province would take a company to court is if it refused to comply with orders given by the chief inspector.

"Typically what happens if there is some sort of mine non-compliance on the site we levy an administrative penalty, they would get into compliance and that would be the end of it."

The minister couldn't say yet what the maximum administrative fine would be for a company that doesn't follow the rules.

After the failure of the Mount Polley tailings dam in August 2014, the chief inspector of mines ordered a third-party review of all similar operations and found no immediate safety concerns.

Mount Polley is currently back in operation, but not in full production.

The mine, owned by Imperial Metals Corp., has an application to move back to full production and discharge clean water from the site.

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COLLISION

## Police officer struck, injured by motorcycle

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

A Vancouver police officer was taken to hospital with serious injuries Thursday after police say he was struck by a motorcyclist he was attempting to flag over for speeding.

Const. Brian Montague, spokesman for Vancouver police, said the incident happened shortly at 11:30 a.m. when the VPD officer, who was standing near his motorcycle, tried to flag over a motorcycle driver for speeding.

He said the driver lost control of the motorcycle at the north end of the Knight Street Bridge and struck the officer.

While police initially said the motorcyclist, a 28-year-old man, was attempting to avoid police when the collision happened, they later said that the driver had been released pending further investigation.

The motorcyclist received only minor injuries and was released.

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# Back to jail for Bantleman

INDONESIA

## High court overturns acquittal of schoolteacher

Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion said the Canadian government "is deeply dismayed and shocked" by an Indonesian Supreme Court decision to overturn the acquittal of Canadian schoolteacher Neil Bantleman.

In its decision, the high court also ordered both Bantleman and an Indonesian teaching assistant to serve 11 years in prison instead of the 10 years they initially received for sexually abusing three young children at a prestigious international school in Jakarta.

Bantleman and Ferdinant Tijong were sentenced in April 2015 but maintained their innocence and filed appeals to the High Court, which acquitted them last August.

Supreme Court spokesman Suhadi said a three-member judge panel handed down its verdict on Wednesday based on the prosecutors' appeal.

"The judge panel concluded that the defendants were proven to have violated the 2007 Child Protection Law," said Suhadi, who uses a single name. "It did not only reinstate the District Court's verdict but also lengthened the sentence to 11 years."

The pair were also ordered to pay a $7,440 fine each or to serve six more months in jail.

Under Indonesian law, both Bantleman and Tijong still could challenge the sentence by filing for judicial review by the Supreme Court if they have new evidence.

"This decision is unjust, given the many grave irregularities throughout the various proceedings in this case and the fact that all evidence presented by the defence has systematically been rejected," Dion said in a statement early Thursday.

Chandra Saptaji, head of the general crime section at the South Jakarta Prosecutors' Office, said they are still looking for Bantleman, who is under a ban to leave the country. "Hopefully, he is co-operative and complying with Indonesia law."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**In happier times: Canadian schoolteacher Neil Bantleman and wife Tracy** after his release from Jakarta's Cipinang prison on Aug. 14, 2015. Bantleman has been ordered back to jail after his acquittal was overturned on Feb. 25. ROMEO GACAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

APPEAL

## What's next

The Indonesian Supreme Court has overturned the acquittal of Neil Bantleman in a decision that has "stunned" the Canadian schoolteacher's family.

**What's his next legal step?**

Bantleman's brother, Guy, says the family will apply for a judicial review at the Supreme Court. Papang Hidayat, an Indonesia-based researcher with Amnesty International, has said a judicial review can be granted if the defence has new evidence to present. That evidence would be heard by a different panel of Supreme Court judges — usually three — than the ones who heard the case previously.

**How about an appeal to the president?**

A convicted person can appeal directly to the president of Indonesia for clemency, Hidayat said, "but it's very rare, actually, for ordinary cases like this" for the president to get involved at all. Article 14 of the Indonesian Constitution gives the president the power to grant "clemency and restoration of rights" to prisoners after getting advice from the Supreme Court. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BIRTHDAYS

# Leap-year babies face myriad annoyances

It's rare for Laura Pedersen to celebrate a birthday on the day she was actually born. The only thing less common for her is hassle-free paperwork.

Her status as a leap-year baby ensures that genuine birthday festivities are only possible once every four years. That same Feb. 29 birth date also creates day-to-day hassles that are all too common.

Online application forms insist leap day doesn't exist. Official insurance forms document the wrong birthday. And no matter what administrative process she's trying to tackle, she inevitably faces questions as to whether she was, in fact, born on leap day.

"We got married this past summer ... and when I wrote my birthday down, the commissioner asked me several times: 'You're sure that it's Feb. 29, right?'" Pedersen said.

Skepticism about a Feb. 29 birthday is widespread, according to one organization that was formed in part to combat it.

The Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies was created in 1997 not only to celebrate the unusual date, but to raise awareness of the challenges associated with it and to advocate for those affected by such hassles.

Co-founder Peter Brouwer will celebrate his 15th leap day birthday in Vancouver this year — he'll be 60, for those who struggle with multiplication. He says inconveniences caused by corporate or technological failure to recognize the day has resulted in serious problems for decades for leapers.

Leapers have experienced everything from webpage shutdowns to halted banking transactions due to the lack of familiarity with the date by authorities. He even recalled a society member who was accused of using a falsified driver's licence because of his date of birth.

The society mounted a few tongue-in-cheek campaigns along with more serious efforts to have companies reappraise their efforts to accommodate leapers.

Brouwer said recent years have seen a decisive shift in leapers' favour. "I think things have really improved," he said. "I have not had a problem entering Feb. 29 anywhere since I can remember."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### LEAPERS FUN FACTS

**Ever wondered why we have leap year? Here are a few facts to bring you up to speed:**

**Why do leap years exist?**

Leap year is the reason that seasons occur at the same time each year. According to the Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies, the Earth takes 365.24 days to make a complete cycle around the sun. Every four years, therefore, the world would be a full day out of sync with the calendar.

**How does it work?**

According to Irv Bromberg at the University of Toronto, "the Gregorian calendar has a 400-year repeat cycle, in which every year number divisible by four (2016, for example) has a leap day appended to February, except if the year number is divisible by 100, in which case it is a leap year only if the year number is also divisible by 400." For instance, the year 2000 was a leap year, while 1900 was not. Got that?

BEER

# Molson brews 1908 ale from old recipe

Molson Coors Canada says it's offering a limited release pale ale brewed from a 108-year-old recipe found deep in the company's archives.

Molson Coors says John H.R Molson and Bros. 1908 Historic Pale Ale was created to celebrate its 230 years of brewing in Canada.

The company says its brewmasters "worked tirelessly" to authentically recreate the pale ale of 1908, right down to the most minute details.

CONTRIBUTED

"We sat down with malsters, barley and hops breeders from across the globe to identify the correct ingredients to mix with Molson's ancient ale yeast derived from the same primordial strand John Molson used in the 1700s," said brewmaster Keith Armstrong.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOUSING

# Canadians feel the real-estate squeeze: Poll

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Nearly half of people living in urban Canada say they're being squeezed by the cost of real estate, even in cities where prices pale in comparison to Vancouver and Toronto's sky-high markets, results of a new poll show.

Fifty-six per cent of Canadians, including those living in smaller real estate markets say housing prices in their neighbourhoods fall outside of what's "reasonable," according to an Angus Reid Institute poll.

In Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Montreal and Halifax, no fewer the 45 per cent of respondents view prices as either "high" or "unreasonably high," the poll results show. According to January data from the Canadian Real Estate Association, the percentage of people who feel that way also roughly mirrors the actual average cost of a home in each city.

**56%**

Inclusive of homebuyers living in smaller markets, **56 per cent** say housing prices fall outside what's "reasonable."

Earlier this month, the federal government introduced new mortgage rules that require homebuyers to put down larger down payments for properties over $500,000. The changes are intended to temper some of the country's heated real estate markets, especially targeting markets like Vancouver and Toronto where there are more properties worth $500,000 or more, according to the government.

While it remains to be seen if that actually happens, the poll results reveal that seven per cent of Canadians say the new rules would make them less likely to buy property this year.

The online survey of 5,867 Canadian adults who are members of the Angus Reid Forum was conducted between Feb. 2 and 10. The survey has a margin of error of 1.3 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Another survey of 1,513 Angus Reid Forum members was conducted Feb. 15 and has a margin of error of 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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# Mumbai creates 16 selfie-free zones

FATALITIES

## Awareness campaign also planned after several deaths

Look around in any major Indian city, and you will find someone with an arm outstretched, mobile phone in hand, smiling widely and clicking away. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi has embraced the medium, posting pictures online he's snapped with various world leaders.

But the pursuit of the most epic selfie can have lethal consequences.

India is home to the highest number of people who have died while taking photos of themselves, with 19 of the world's 49 recorded selfie-linked deaths since 2014, according to San Francisco-based data service provider Priceonomics. The statistic may in part be due to India's sheer size, with 1.25 billion citizens and one of the world's fastest-growing smartphone markets.

**An Indian family takes a selfie in Mumbai's coastline.** RAFIQ MAQBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alarmed by the trend, Mumbai has declared 16 no-selfie zones across the city, as authorities warn people against taking unnecessary risks.

Earlier this month, an 18-year-old college student on a class picnic lost his balance while taking a selfie atop a rock near a dam near the central Indian city of Nashik. He fell into the water and drowned, along with a classmate who jumped in to try to save him.

Last month, an 18-year-old woman fell and drowned in the sea while taking a photo of herself at Mumbai's Bandstand Fort, a popular tourist spot.

After the woman's death last month, the city's police conducted a survey to identify such dangerous places, police official Dhananjay Kulkarni said. The city also plans to run an awareness campaign.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### PHOTO FINISH

**Fines set at 1,200 rupees**

In Mumbai, police have declared selfies off-limits in areas perceived as risky, such as coastline locations with no railings or barriers. Anyone venturing into off-limits areas, even if they take no photos, risks being slapped with a fine of 1,200 rupees, or about $18. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REFUGEE CRISIS

## Court OKs razing of migrant settlement

A French court gave the state the green light Thursday to raze makeshift tents and leantos used by hundreds of migrants at a sprawling slum in Calais, where many dream of slipping into Britain.

Tamping down fears of a violent confrontation, France's interior minister promised to treat the migrants humanely and not send in bulldozers to evict them.

The camp in the northern port city, known as "the Jungle," has been an embarrassing chapter in Europe's migrant crisis, and France announced this month that its densely populated southern half would be razed. The move prompted rights groups and migrant advocates to sue.

Officials estimate the number of migrants who will be affected at 800 to 1,000, while humanitarian organizations say over 3,000 migrants live there. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**A man talks on the phone in the refugee camp.** DENIS CHARLET/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

### REPUBLICAN RACE

**Cruz, Rubio tag-team Trump**

Presidential candidates Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz barrelled into Thursday's Republican debate in Houston eager to seize one last chance to slow Donald Trump's before next week's Super Tuesday mega-round of voting, and immediately took him on over his immigration positions and more.

In the night's first exchange, Florida Sen. Rubio accused the billionaire businessman of shifting positions on deportation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


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INTRODUCING: SCIENCE FRIDAYS February 26, 2016

DECODED

# Gravity does the wave

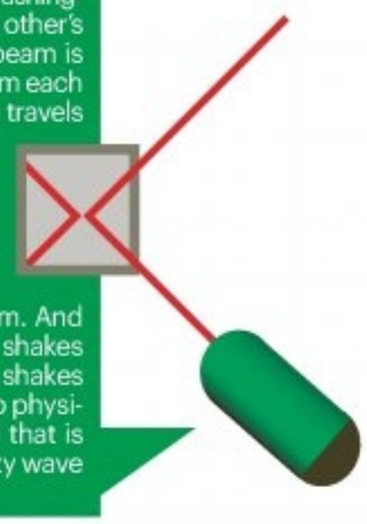
**Nice job, Einstein.** It's been a century since the super-smart physicist predicted the existence of **gravitational waves,** and three weeks since scientists announced they've directly detected them for the first time. It took us that long to stretch and warp our minds enough to understand how it is that space and time can be stretched and warped. Turns out this once-in-a-lifetime discovery is not as complicated as it seems — but way cooler: It's a potential new tool to observe more of "what's out there" than we've ever dreamed of seeing before.

1

**WE NEVER DOUBTED YOU, AL**
In 1916, Albert Einstein hypothesized that a massive explosion of energy — like, say, two black holes colliding 1.3 billion light-years away — would send out shock ripples called **gravitational waves,** jiggling the fabric of space and time. He was right. A little over a billion years later, those waves jiggled the Earth. Just the tiniest bit: by less than the width of an atom. And in September 2015, researchers at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) measured that motion.

2

**HOW DID THEY DO IT?**
With ginormous lasers — plus a lot of other complex instruments and powerful computers — arranged identically in Louisiana and Washington State so the teams can check each other's work. Here's how it works: One laser beam is split into two beams travelling away from each other at a 90-degree angle. Each beam travels straight ahead for four kilometres, and then is bounced off a mirror. The two halves of the beam meet up again and merge into one. If a gravitational wave passes through, the mirrors wobble in a very specific way that scientists can see by analysing the recombined beam. And that's what happened. "First the signal shakes Louisiana, then 10 milliseconds later it shakes up Washington," University of Waterloo physicist Dr. Robert Mann told Metro. "And that is exactly how long it should take a gravity wave to go through the Earth."



3

**ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE — SORT OF**
In ordinary life, it's helpful to think of time and space as constant and unchanging — as if, in the words of physicist Robert Mann, we all live and move around on a stage made of iron. But in reality, the stage is made of something like jelly. When a really massive object — like a black hole — steps onto the stage, the jelly sinks and bounces. Time can slow down or speed up. Space can expand or contract. And if a big enough shock to the system happens, a wave can ripple through the goo of space time — and that's what we call a gravitational wave.

4

**CANADIAN CONNECTION**
The LIGO collaboration included more than 1,000 scientists from 14 countries. Among them: Researchers at the University of Toronto, who performed some of the calculations to verify that LIGO's results were the real deal.

5

**A NEW WINDOW INTO THE UNIVERSE**
"The history of astronomy was based on light. We started out with visible light, and then we came up with technology where we could see radio waves, gamma rays, x-rays. Now what we're observing is not just another form of light. It's completely new. Anything that's dark in the universe **could** be revealed to us by gravitational waves. That's the promise this holds."

Dr. Eric Poisson,
Gravitational physicist
University of Guelph

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Genna Buck

Citizen Scientist

## Will talcum powder give me ovarian cancer?

**QUESTION**
**I read this week that Johnson & Johnson had to pay $72 million to the family of a woman who died of ovarian cancer caused by talcum powder. I'm in my 60s and have used talcum powder for half my life. I'm officially terrified!**
**Sincerely,**
**Sandy in Winnipeg**

**Dear Sandy,**
**The most important thing to know is that it's highly unlikely you'll get ovarian cancer**, whether you use talc or not. About 1.3 per cent of women get ovarian cancer in their lifetimes. The greatest effect any study linking talc use to ovarian cancer showed around a 30 per cent increase in relative risk — meaning talc users would have something like a 1.69 per cent risk of getting ovarian cancer one day.

Johnson & Johnson lost its lawsuit because people in the corporation were told about the link and did not act on it.

But the evidence for the connection is mixed. Unlike smaller, older research papers on this issue, newer studies with larger samples mostly failed to find increased cancer rates among talc users — including women who put baby powder in a *diaphragm* (Ew). I suspect that the link is a hangover from the pre-1970s days when talcum contained asbestos, which does cause cancer.

**Got a burning science question?** Email scene@metronews.ca

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# STYLISH STARS ARE THEY CUT OUT FOR THESE LOOKS?

Metro's Oscar fashion panel suggests three gowns ahead of Sunday's show. Dress the dolls yourself by clipping them out! NICHOLE JANKOWSKI METRO

## Brie Larson

@JILLIANVIEIRA

**Jillian Vieira is the fashion editor at The Kit, Canada's 360-degree beauty & style leader.**

We've already seen Brie favour sexy cut-outs and slinky silhouettes this awards season. As a serious best actress contender, I'd love for her to have a cool-girl princess moment in a dramatic, tulle-heavy Giambattista Valli.

**@DANIESQUE**

Known to favour feminine silhouettes, Brie could seriously rock a Delpozo dress. She's already proven that she can wear colour — and Delpozo's ability to pair nearly-fluorescent hues with neutrals and pastels is unmatched.

**@MICHELLEADDISONSTYLE**

If I was her stylist I'd try to get her in a Giambattisa Valli frock (think Rihanna at the 2015 Grammys). Since her fellow nominees are known to wear lighter colours, I'd like to see her stand out in a darker hue.

## Lupita Nyong'o

@MICHELLEADDISONSTYLE

**Michelle Addison is one of Vancouver's top stylists. Catch her fashion segments on CTV Morning Live.**

Colour, colour and more colour. Nothing could stop this lady from being the centre of a room. She loves classic cuts and unfussy fashion. I would love to see her in yellow or gold. Oscar de la Renta or Calvin Klein would be good choices for her.

**@JILLIANVIEIRA**

There's very little Lupita can't pull off: flapper dresses, Grecian gowns and a one-piece column dress with cape have all earned her sartorial praise. A couture jumpsuit (à la Dior) would really solidify her Red Carpet Queen status.

**@DANIESQUE**

I'd love to see Lupita in Sid Neigum. While beautiful, her red carpet looks all follow similar silhouettes. Sid is known for dramatic, structured designs. Lupita could definitely pull off one of his runway-ready looks.

## Priyanka Chopra

@DANIESQUE

**Dani Roche is a designer, creative director, and the owner of Kastor & Pollux, a Toronto design and experiences agency.**

Rodarte is known for their fairy-tale-like esthetic, innovative use of materials, and unconventional details — and one of their dreamy dresses would be a great fit for Priyanka, who typically opts for embellished gowns on the red carpet.

**@MICHELLEADDISONSTYLE**

While it's likely Priyanka will choose white to present, I'd like to see her in red or even dusty rose. She should stay away from black and metallics. I would love her to wear American/Indian Designer Naeem Khan or even Dior.

**@JILLIANVIEIRA**

Priyanka has the bold-colour-plus-body-hugging look mastered, which is why I'd like to see her graduate to new textures and fits. A draped, net-like dress (in an uber-flattering metallic finish like at Valentino) would do the trick.

**THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN**

THE OSCARS

# The Oscars provide me with an excuse to make an elaborate meal out of snacks, fancy wine and frozen food

Right after a commercial break during the Academy Awards in 1987, the camera landed on host Chevy Chase. He was picking his nose. As a 12-year-old, this was the funniest thing I'd ever seen on television. I haven't missed an Oscar ceremony since.

I love them, although not everyone does. "The next morning, we all complain about how boring it was," New York Times film critic A.O. Scott recently wrote. "The morning after that we forget it all until the next year, when the show finds new ways to disappoint us." But Mr. Scott, the disappointments are half the fun! Out of Africa outperforming both Witness and The Color Purple; Chariots of Fire upstaging On Golden Pond; Forest Gump eclipsing Pulp Fiction and The Shawshank Redemption; Crash over any other movie ever made! And what about the upsets? Crowd pleasers, like Rocky, beating All the President's Men, Network and Taxi Driver in 1976, and more recently in 2010 The King's Speech reigning over True Grit, Winter's Bone and The Social Network.

This year, however, disappointment lies more with the Academy itself. For the second year in a row they've failed to nominate a minority for best acting, which will undoubtedly provide pointed material for Chris Rock, who will have his second crack at hosting the awards on Sunday night.

The Academy's president promises to fix this by reviewing recruitment efforts.

"In a way, the scandal of this year's nominees confirms what too few of us in our profession are willing to admit: that the Oscars don't matter except insofar as they provide answers to future trivia questions," Scott said.

Maybe — but they also provide me with an excuse to make an elaborate meal out of snacks, fancy wine and frozen food, which has been my Oscar spread for a decade now: I'm talking crostini topped with charcuterie, cheese, bruschetta-style tomatoes, guacamole, a shrimp ring, plus jalapeño poppers and mozzarella sticks, all washed down with a Nuits-Saint-Georges Burgundy.

There's not really a main course, although the calorie count easily surpasses 2,000. The point is that I can graze during the three-hour ceremony while I'm watching Twitter for fashion analysis, desperately looking for Jack Nicholson's return to the front row, tallying how many Oscars Spotlight picks up and trying to stay awake to see Leo finally get his Academy Award.

# Are the Oscars still relevant?

THE OSCARS

## #OscarsSoWhite reflects Academy Awards' cultural disconnect

**Richard Crouse**
For Metro Canada

A friend is boycotting the Academy Awards because his favourite film of 2015, Star Wars: The Force Awakens, didn't make the Oscar's Best Picture list.

The awards, he says, aren't relevant because they ignore genre movies and in this particular case, have snubbed the most financially successful film of the year. In fact, the old canard that the Academy doesn't honour genre movies with Best Picture nods has been shot down this year with nominations for The Martian and Mad Max: Fury Road.

The Oscar folks also gave The Force Awakens five nominations and in recent years Inception, Avatar, District 9, Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King and Django Unchained have all earned top nods with Avatar and LOTR taking home the gold.

Genre movies do just fine with the Academy. No need for C-3PO to cry little metal tears. To the Academy's credit, not recognizing the year's box office behemoth while giving Room, a modestly grossing movie, Best Picture, Actress, Directing and Adapted Screenplay nods, actually suggests the Academy will not be wowed by wheelbarrows of cash.

Perhaps the truth is that the Oscars, and awards shows in general, are only as relevant as you want them to be. Are they as important as the Republican debates? It's all just show biz, so maybe. Ultimately, unless you're an actor, a director or a shareholder in a nominated film the Oscars are probably not extremely significant to your life. I pay attention to them as a function of my job, and I enjoy them, but this year I'm on board with my friend but for different reasons.

I'm disappointed in Oscar's failure to acknowledge diversity. For the second year in a row all 20 acting nominations went to white actors. To be clear I'm not implying the Academy is overtly racist. There are too many voters for there to be a conspiracy to keep actors of colour out of the headline categories. Have you ever gone to a restaurant with more than 10 people and tried to get everyone to agree on an appetizer for the table? It's nearly impossible. Now imagine trying to arrange collusion between 6,000 members of the Academy. Totally hopeless.

So if it's not a conspiracy why were stellar performances from Creed's Michael B. Jordan, The Hateful Eight's Samuel L. Jackson, Sicario's Benicio Del Toro, Beasts of No Nation's Idris Elba or any of Straight Outta Compton's top line cast not nominated? I think it's a combination of studio decision makers, who tend to be white, male and older coupled with the same demographic of voters at the Academy.

It's a systemic issue being addressed by Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs' effort to mould the Academy's membership to be more in line with the population.

Until the Oscars represent the full width and breadth of the best in Hollywood, regardless of race or gender, they will continue to slide toward irrelevancy. My guess is that the most interesting part of this year's ceremony won't be who wins Best Actor but host Chris Rock's opening monologue, which, if the movie gods prevail, will address the situation in no uncertain terms. It's a speech I'm predicting will be just as entertaining and provocative as any of the nominees, Star Wars: The Force Awakens included.

ACADEMY AWARDS AS LIGHTNING ROD

## Outspoken at the Oscars

This year the #OscarsSoWhite movement made the Academy Awards a lightening rod for debate but the diversity issue is only the latest Oscars controversy.

**1 Marlon Brando**
In 1973 Marlon Brando made headlines when he sent Sacheen Littlefeather to refuse the Best Actor statue for his work in The Godfather. In a prepared statement she said Brando declined the award because of "the treatment of American Indians today by the film industry and on television and in movie reruns." The speech was met with boos and later Clint Eastwood said, "I don't know if I should present this award on behalf of all the cowboys shot in John Ford westerns over the years," as he presented the Best Picture award.

**2 Vanessa Redgrave**
Five years later as the Jewish Defense League burned effigies of pro-Palestinian activist Vanessa Redgrave outside the Dorothy Chandler Pavillion, the Julia actress accepted the Best Actress award inside. Drawing gasps from the audience she said she "refused to be intimidated by the threats of a small bunch of Zionist hoodlums." Later screenwriter Paddy Chayefsky said, "I'm sick and tired of people exploiting the Academy Awards for the propagation of their own personal propaganda," to rapturous applause.

**3 Sarandon and Robbins**
Chayefsky's scolding didn't seem to stick as actors continued to use the Oscar stage as a platform. In 1993 a trifecta of actors made the ceremony the most political ever. Best Film Editing presenters Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins criticized the government for incarcerating 266 HIV virus-infected Haitians in Guantanamo Bay while Richard Gere commented on human rights abuses in China. Show producer Gil Cates was outraged. "Does anyone care about Richard Gere's comments about China?" he said. "It's arrogant."

*HOLLYWOOD SUITE* SPONSORED CONTENT

## 5 REASONS TO WATCH THE FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

**Can't get enough of Hollywood's award season? The Film Independent Spirit Awards is just the ticket. The star-studded annual event, now in its 31st year, honours the best achievements in independent film. The ceremony is held in a tent on Santa Monica Beach, with a dollop of Oscar pageantry and a full helping of Golden Globe irreverence. It's a chance to see the industry's top talent chill out, pat each other on the back, and potentially say something they'll regret for a full year. Here are 5 other reasons to tune in:**

**1. The hosts.** What do Kristen Bell, Steve Coogan, John Waters and Seth Rogan have in common? They've all hosted the Spirit Awards. This year, the show boasts Kate McKinnon and Kumail Nanjiani. McKinnon is a current Saturday Night Live cast member, famous for her dead-on impressions (including Justin Bieber!). Her co-host, Nanjiani, is an accomplished stand-up with a growing resume of feature films, including Sex Tape and Hot Tub Time Machine 2.

**2. Behind the scenes bits.** Last year, Fred Armisen's hysterical parody of Birdman saw him bob frantically through the show's backstage on a single-take adventure that led him to find actor Miles Teller pounding a live drum kit — a reference to Teller's Spirit-nominated film Whiplash.

**3. Sauciness in the spotlight.** Nothing says "unceremonious" like the promotional-size bottles of booze on every table at this gala dinner. This show is the setting for such moments as Michael Moore famously condemning George W. Bush. It's the setting for Jared Leto, accepting the award for Best Supporting Male for Dallas Buyers Club, who thanked everyone from Pink Floyd to the inventor of the zipper.

**4. The unexpected takes centre stage.** Anything can happen. Like the time director Michel Hazanavicius arrived with a full police escort from LAX just in time to receive his Best Director award for The Artist.

**5. A real connection to film.** Sure, it's cool to see everyone from Daniel Radcliffe and Bradley Cooper to Jane Fonda and Bruce Willis breaking bread and chugging drinks together. But it's even cooler to know why they're there. The show helps filmmakers make their movies, it builds an audience for their projects and helps diversify the film industry.

Watch the exclusive Canadian broadcast of the Film Independent Spirit Awards live on Hollywood Suite, Saturday, Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. ET.

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# Biopic champions last-place Olympic skier

EDDIE THE EAGLE

## Tale of kitschy competitor a feel-good sports classic

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

**Eddie (Taron Egerton), left, and his coach Bronson Peary (Hugh Jackman) rejoice in Eddie's triumph in Eddie the Eagle.** CONTRIBUTED

Eddie Edwards is a textbook example of a real-life folk hero. Just don't call the infamous ski jumper an underdog.

"People say it's an underdog story," explained filmmaker Dexter Fletcher while discussing his new Olympian biopic Eddie the Eagle recently. "But it's only an underdog story if he went I'm going to go win gold and did it. Eddie just wanted to get there."

Those who remember Eddie the Eagle's rock star rise during the 1988 Olympics in Calgary may recall how the bespectacled Brit won over spectators with a spirited, albeit below-average pair of last-place jumps. But of course, it wasn't his athleticism that inspired most fans.

"I've met people who saw him jump and they said 'we'd always go and watch him because you never knew what was going to happen'," said the 50-year-old actor-turned-director. "He was about getting to be an Olympian and that reaction that you got from the crowd at Calgary was just about the natural exuberance of 'wow, I've achieved something I've always wanted to do!'"

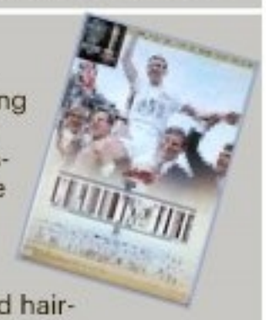
Coincidentally, another quartet of kitschy competitors not only competed in the same Olympics, but also had a biopic produced about them. Although Fletcher hadn't planned on scouting other movies for motivation ahead of production, he does concede he caught Cool Runnings, the 1993 comedy about an unlikely bobsled team from Jamaica.

"I get why it works and I see where the similarities are and that's fine but our movie had to find our own identity, its own tone," said Fletcher. "Of course, that's what separates all these movies from the next."

After 40 years in showbiz, Fletcher should know a thing or two about making movies. A longtime London thespian that's appeared in everything from The Elephant Man to HBO's Band of Brothers, Fletcher may now enjoy extending his expertise behind the camera, but directing only came to him accidentally after shopping his first screenplay.

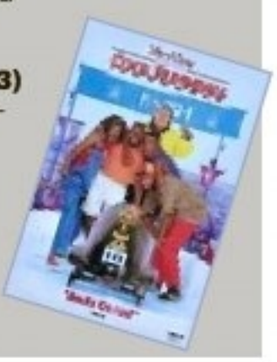
"I took it to some producers who just assumed that I wanted to direct it so I never told them any different," laughed Fletcher recalling his acclaimed 2011 directorial debut Wild Bill. "The film turned out well (so) I've been riding that wave ever since."

### HOLLYWOOD'S TOP OLYMPIC FLICKS



**Chariots of Fire (1981)**
Perhaps more famous for its overbearing score by Vangelis, this Oscar-winning film tells the true story of two religiously-disparate runners competing to race at the 1924 Olympics in Paris.

**Miracle (2004)**
Kurt Russell sports a bad haircut and loud checkered pants to play real-life coach Herb Brooks who led a longshot American hockey team to gold at the Lake Placid Olympics in 1980.



**Cool Runnings (1993)**
Before finding gold with thrillers like National Treasure, filmmaker Jon Turteltaub fictionalized a family feature about the Jamaican squad that went from sitting on sunny Caribbean beaches to sliding down a snowy Olympic bobsled track in Calgary. STEVE GOW/FOR METRO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Just for laughs Live

# Finding humour in the darkness

A PERFECT DAY

## Del Toro tackles tricky role as an aid worker

The last time we saw Benicio Del Toro on screen he was starring in Sicario as a mercenary who collected a handsome paycheque while quenching his thirst for revenge against drug cartel leaders.

He was vicious and malicious, a supreme badass doing the right thing for the completely wrong reason.

That movie's dark and gritty examination of the drug-fuelled Mexico-U.S. border war stands in stark contrast to his new movie, the optimistically titled A Perfect Day.

"I do believe there is hope in A Perfect Day," he says. "I agree with you that Sicario is hopeless but in this one there is hope. I was finishing A Perfect Day when I went into Sicario. Perhaps that's one of the reasons Sicario was interesting, because it was the dark side of the coin."

Set in 1990s Balkans, Del Toro plays Mambrú, a misfit aid worker whose team (played by Tim Robbins and Olga Kurylenko among others) begin their day in the former Yugoslavia trying to remove a bloated corpse dumped in a well to contaminate the water.

The task is complicated by United Nations bureaucracy and the lack of a strong enough rope forcing the crew to navigate not only landmine-ridden roads but their own complicated relationships in search of a solution.

Director Fernando León de Aranoa calls Del Toro the centerpiece of the film, adding, "Working with him means working with a creative partner."

"There are some ideas that can come from anywhere that are golden," Del Toro says on improvising on set. "I would like to say that I wish I could recognize good ideas when they are out there whether they come from another actor or they come from myself.

"If there is a good idea I do believe that if you don't take advantage of it while you are making the film it'll be gone forever. If there is a good idea I am game to explore."

Del Toro, who is currently filming Star Wars: Episode VIII, says the script appealed to him because, it was about, "people trying to do good and just how complicated it can get, but with elements of humour.... It was like a riddle to solve," he says.

"Can the movie balance these two things? I think it does. The darkness of the war and the job with the humour."

One point of reference was Robert Altman's black comedy M*A*S*H about medical personnel stationed at a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital during the Korean War.

The actor says he discussed the 1970 movie, "with the director and Tim Robbins a little bit but the other film we talked about was No Man's Land by Danis Tanović. It takes place in that part of the world and deals with the comedy and the darkness. The comedy in a ridiculous way."

More importantly, he met with his character's real-life counterparts.

"I had met some aid workers and I will tell you, they all have a good sense of humour. They tell you some dark stories but they do have a sense of humour.

"It's a way of dealing with the darkness of their experiences and the pain." RICHARD CROUSE/FOR METRO

**Benicio Del Toro plays a misfit aid worker working in the Balkans in the 1990s.** CONTRIBUTED

metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

Jerusalem Hotel to reward couples who conceive on leap day in one of their rooms

# 5 BEST SPOTS FOR SCUBA DIVING IN CUBA

Over the past 25 years, 80 per cent of the Caribbean's reefs have either died or have severely degraded. However, the lack of economic development and restrictions placed on offshore activities in Cuba, along with a smattering of environmental policies, have saved the coral reefs around the island. Here's five of the best spots. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## 1 Jardines de la Reina

The spectacular Jardines de la Reina is the premier dive destination for the Caribbean. It's enclosed in a marine protected area that's 170 kilometres long and 10 kms wide, and it has the healthiest coral reef ecosystem in the Caribbean. Only 500 scuba divers per year are permitted to dive in this undersea paradise. If you can only go on one dive trip in the Caribbean, this is it.

## 2 Cayo Largo

If you don't want to put any effort in getting to your dive vacation, Cayo Largo is a great option, as there are direct flights from Canada. You will land close to your hotel and the marina. The dive charters run efficiently, and it's a short sail to the dive sites along the nearby barrier reefs.

PHOTOS JOSEPH FREY/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE: CORAL AND GROUPER PHOTOS ISTOCK

## 3 Bay of Pigs

If you're fascinated by Cold War history and wall diving that drops 450 metres into the abyss, then the Bay of Pigs is your place. The best dive sites are only a two-minute swim from shore, and they're located between the towns of Playa Larga and Playa Giron. Home to 17 varieties of flat coral, both hard and soft, the deeper you dive, the wider the coral get.

## 4 Isle of Youth

Punta Frances Marine National Park is tucked away on the remote southwestern tip of the Isle of Youth and formed around a peninsula with protected, white, sun-drenched sandy beaches. The reefs here are in good shape and the fish populations diverse.

## 5 Trinidad de Cuba

Southwest of Trinidad de Cuba, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along a starkly beautiful stretch of coastline, there is an area of wall diving with colourful coral and beautiful fish. The walls are punctuated with meandering canyons in parts, some of which turn into beautiful tunnels with coral-overhang where sharks can be seen.

PROTECTION

# Tourists welcome here — sort of

News that Italy's Cinque Terre is set to implement a ticketing system that limits the number of tourists who visit the area is the latest reminder of the privileges and pitfalls that have come with increasingly accessible airfares and mass tourism.

Cinque Terre, located in the Liguria region of Italy, is the latest tourist destination that has been forced to put a cap on tourists in a bid to preserve the integrity of its natural surroundings in the wake of explosive visitor numbers over the last few years.

Last week, a spokesman for the national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site announced that as of this summer, visitors will have to buy an advance ticket online in order to gain access to the cliffside trails which connect the five fishing villages. Here are a few other destinations that have either implemented tourist caps or are considering it.

### Machu Picchu

In a bid to preserve and protect Peru's fabled and ancient, mountaintop ruins, the country has developed a new reconceptualization project that imposes time limits as a means to control crowd flow and requires visitors to hire an official guide for the trail.

### Antarctica

To protect one of the few, final frontiers unspoiled by human activity and tourism, The Antarctic Treaty restricts ships with more than 500 passengers from landing sites.

### Galapagos Islands

Described as a "living museum and showcase of evolution," the collection of 19 islands which make up the Galapagos Islands groaned under the pressure of unsustainable tourism numbers over the years, putting it on the United Nations' list of endangered heritage sites. Today, a conservation program has successfully helped it make a solid recovery. To visit, tourists must now be accompanied by a licensed Galapagos National Park Guide and abide by strict rules when visiting the area. Camping is also allowed in only a handful of authorized areas, and requires a permit from park officials. AFP

**Picturesque Cinque Terre is joining places like Antarctica and the Galapagos Islands in looking to limit the number of tourists it takes.** ISTOCK

# More to Washington than the White House

AMERICA

## Dupont Circle area known for its art, quirky attractions

The National Mall, a look at the White House and cherry blossoms in springtime are all musts for visitors to Washington, D.C.

But once you've got the essentials covered, consider spending a few hours in Dupont Circle, a neighbourhood with gems that range from a popular indie bookstore to a beer brewer's Victorian mansion. The area also includes a gas station on the National Register of Historic Places and the Phillips Collection, a modern art museum.

Take the Metro to the Dupont Circle stop and look for a white marble fountain in a circular plaza. That's the centre of the neighbourhood. Streets extend out from the circle like spokes on a wheel.

### Attractions

The Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St., is probably Dupont Circle's best-known attraction. Through May 8, Seeing Nature offers 39 paintings from five centuries, including Impressionist works and David Hockney's large, colourful 1998 depiction of the Grand Canyon. In the museum's permanent collection, be sure to see Renoir's lively Luncheon of the Boating Party.

The Heurich House Museum, billed as "the brewmaster's castle," is a 31-room home at 1307 New Hampshire Ave., built in the 1890s by Christian Heurich, a German-born beermaker. Heurich was best known for his Senate brand of beer. He survived Prohibition by temporarily turning his beer business into an ice-distribution company, and he was still making beer when he died in 1945 at age 102. The Kennedy Center sits on the land where his factory was located.

Dupont Circle is also home to many embassies. On one block, a white statue of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of knowledge, graces the Indonesian embassy, while the flag of Portugal flies from the embassy next door.

Two curiosities in the neighbourhood: Spanish Steps, a flight of stone stairs at S Street and 22nd Street named for the famous steps in Rome, and a gas station on the National Register of Historic Sites at 2200 P St. across from Rock Creek Park. The gas station was built in 1936 by Gulf Oil to look more like a bank or library than a filling station. It's a Sunoco station today, with "SNACK SHOP" written on the tidy building that helped earn its historic designation.

### Shopping and dining

Connecticut Avenue has lots of small, fun shops, including for dog owners, The Cheeky Puppy, 1709 Connecticut Ave.; for women's clothing and accessories, lou lou boutiques, a regional chain with stores at 1601 and 1623 Connecticut Ave.; and beads at Beadazzled, 1507 Connecticut.

On the second floor of 1702 Connecticut Ave., the Secondi consignment store sells designer finds, ranging from a DVF wrap dress for $98 to a Chanel coat for more than $1,000. Second Story Books & Antiques, 2000 P St., draws treasure-hunters with its outdoor carts of $4 books, while Kramerbooks & Afterwords Cafe, 1517 Connecticut Ave., draws crowds on weekends for both books and brunch (try the Cubano sandwich and black bean salad).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**This gas station is on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built in 1936 to look more like a bank or library than a filling station.** BETH J. HARPAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## TRAVEL NOTES NEW YORK-PARIS, B.C. AND THE GREAT NORTH

### Norwegian to fly New York to Paris nonstop with fares from $175 U.S.

The Norway-based budget airline will start flying a nonstop Paris-New York route with introductory fares starting at $175 US from July 29. Norwegian is also opening Paris-U.S. routes connecting the French capital with Los Angeles and Fort Lauderdale. Although Norwegian is the first carrier to offer such attractive fares between Paris and New York, it isn't the first airline to drive down prices on the popular route. AFP

**Norwegian will start flying a New York-Paris route with fares from $175 U.S.** HANDOUT

### International tourism to B.C. increasing, province says

The British Columbia government says the number of international visitors to the province is increasing and France is in the top spot on a list of seven countries and regions. Almost 360,000 more international visitors came to the province in 2015, with the total number approaching five million. The ministry is crediting its marketing strategy, along with the province's aboriginal tourism sector and more direct flights. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**A deer spotted on Grouse mountain in Vancouver.** ISTOCK

### Quebec to spend $36 million on northern wilderness park

The Quebec government says it will spend $36 million to develop Parc national d'Opemican, a 252-square-kilometre tract of lakes, rivers and old pine forests in the Abitibi-Temiscamingue region along the Ontario border. The work, expected to be completed in about three years, will include the creation of a main park hub, Pointe-Opemican, on Lac Temiscamingue.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Parc national d'Opemican is getting an upgrade.** ISTOCK

metro SPORTS

The Winnipeg Jets have traded captain Andrew Ladd to the Chicago Blackhawks in a multi-player deal

# Canucks on the trading block

**Cam Tucker**
Metro | Vancouver

The Vancouver Canucks appear likely to be sellers at the trade deadline on Monday, with speculation swirling around three players in particular: Jannik Hansen, Dan Hamhuis and Radim Vrbata.

PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

## Jannik Hansen

With 19 goals on the season, eclipsing his previous career best of 16, Jannik Hansen is enjoying a career year with the Canucks.

He attributes it to playing on the right wing with Daniel and Henrik Sedin at 5-on-5 play, but Hansen has also proven himself a versatile player who can be used in many different situations, including the penalty kill.

**SCORING TOUCH**
Prior to Thursday night, four of Hansen's 19 goals on the season were scored in the last six games.

With his tools, versatility, performance and production this season, his name has been thrown into the mix of trade speculation, especially at a local level, in the last couple of weeks with his value likely on the rise.

His contract is also friendly to potential buyers in the market for an affordable winger. After this season, he still has two more years on his contract, which comes with an annual cap hit of $2.5 million, as per General Fanager.

That, combined with a career-best season at the age of 29, could make Hansen an enticing option for teams, should the Canucks decide to venture down that path.

## Dan Hamhuis

A reliable, experienced defenceman, the 33-year-old could be highly sought after as a potential rental player leading up to the trade deadline and he could fetch quite a return, especially if contending teams get into a bidding war.

A pending unrestricted free agent with a cap hit of $4.5 million, as per General Fanager, he would have to waive his no-trade clause in order to facilitate a deal. TSN reported Thursday that the Chicago Blackhawks had serious interest in Hamhuis — as well as Vrbata.

Hamhuis, who returned earlier this month from horrific facial injuries, said Thursday that Canucks management has not asked him to waive his no-trade clause.

However, it's evident he wants to remain in Vancouver, where his family has built roots within the community since he signed here six years ago.

He seemed at least open to the idea of a trade if he could re-sign with the Canucks in the summer.

Also factoring into the equation is the opportunity to compete for a Stanley Cup.

"You always want to be playing competitive hockey in the playoffs," he said. "I love the opportunity to try to win. We had such a close call there in 2011, being close, and that's certainly enticing."

## Radim Vrbata

Vrbata didn't practice this week due to a lower-body injury suffered Sunday, and, on Tuesday, Canucks coach Willie Desjardins guessed his right-winger could be out for a week.

The coach didn't believe Vrbata would be out any longer.

**$5M**
Vrbata's cap hit this season

A pending unrestricted free agent with a cap hit of $5 million and a modified no-trade clause, Vrbata has endured a difficult 2015-16 season, his second in Vancouver.

After scoring 31 goals and 63 points a year ago, he has 12 goals and 24 points, as he's struggled through bad luck, a nearly three per cent dip in shooting percentage and to find chemistry with his linemates.

His value has likely taken a subsequent hit with his drop in production.

Still, a contending team in need of bolstering its overall scoring down the wing may look to the 34-year-old Vrbata to help provide that as a rental.

He was also a strong fit in the Canucks power play, particularly last season, when he was paired with the Sedins.

**The Canucks' Jake Virtanen checks the Senators' Dion Phaneuf into the boards on Thursday night at Rogers Arena.**
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Bartkowski comes up big vs. Senators

One day after it was reported the Canucks would essentially be open to moving Matt Bartkowski, as well as six other players, the 27-year-old defenceman had the most productive night of his NHL career.

A lightning rod for criticism at times during his first season in Vancouver and a pending unrestricted free agent currently on a one-year deal, Bartkowski scored twice and added an assist for a three-point night.

**THURSDAY in Vancouver**

| 5 | 3 |
|---|---|
| CANUCKS | SENATORS |

His second goal of the night tied Thursday's game against the Ottawa Senators in the third period, as he ripped a slapshot from the top of the faceoff circle past goalie Craig Anderson. Despite a lengthy review on a coach's challenge, the goal stood, giving Bartkowski five on the season.

Rookie 19-year-old forward Jake Virtanen, who assisted on Bartkowski's second goal of the game, scored almost seven minutes later on the power play to give Vancouver a 4-3 lead.

With only one game remaining on Vancouver's schedule before the trade deadline on Monday, the Canucks held on for a 5-3 victory at Rogers Arena.

The Canucks have now won two games in a row.

Markus Granlund, making his debut for the Canucks after the unpopular trade with Calgary for prospect Hunter Shinkaruk earlier in the week, also had an assist in the second period.

Granlund played a role in Vancouver's opening goal of the night, too.

Emerson Etem got the goal, with Linden Vey assisting, but it was Granlund battling in front of the net that opened up space for Etem to capitalize.

Etem also scored twice.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

## IN BRIEF

**National rugby sevens event in B.C. is a sell out**
The upcoming HSBC Canada Sevens Vancouver Men's Rugby Tournament has been sold out, organizers announced Thursday. A total of 56,000 spectators will take in the two-day event, which goes March 12 and 13 at BC Place Stadium.

"We have been strongly focused on player and fan experience, this sell out will help us to deliver on a world class atmosphere for everyone involved," said Bill Cooper, CEO of HSBC Canada Sevens, in a statement.
CAM TUCKER/METRO

**Curry follows up 42 with 51**
Stephen Curry scored 51 points and set an NBA record with a three-pointer in his 128th consecutive game as the Golden State Warriors beat the Orlando Magic 130-114 on Thursday night.

A night after scoring 42 in a six-point win at Miami, Curry made 20 of 27 shots. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Teen rookie leads United into Europa League's last 16**
Teenager Marcus Rashford scored two of Manchester United's four second-half goals in his professional debut in a 5-1 win over FC Midtjylland, sparing the English giant an embarrassing exit from the Europa League on Thursday. United won 6-3 on aggregate to reach the last 16. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Donaldson: 'I wouldn't want to pitch against us'

MLB

## Jays slugger looks forward to season after busy winter

Josh Donaldson isn't worried about the Toronto Blue Jays' offensive potential this upcoming season.

He just feels sorry for opposing pitchers.

"The fact of the matter is, you have me, then you have Jose Bautista, who hit 40 homers last year ... then Edwin Encarnacion, who's hit over 40, then Russell Martin ... (Chris) Colabello, (Justin) Smoak ... Tulo (Troy Tulowitzki) — I mean, Jesus, it just keeps going," Donaldson said.

"I wouldn't want to pitch against us. There were a lot of guys last year that we faced who were defeated before they even threw the first pitch. And those guys made their exit pretty quick."

Donaldson, the reigning MVP of the American League, reported to Blue Jays camp Thursday after a jam-packed off-season.

He played with PGA Tour star Jason Dufner in the Pebble Beach Pro Am — where he rubbed elbows with singer Justin Timberlake — took a photo of himself with Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton at an Auburn football game (both are Tigers alumni), and even landed a speaking role on an episode of the History Channel's Canadian-Irish drama series Vikings.

"I had a great time," Donaldson said about his acting gig. "Went to Ireland (to film the episode), got to meet a lot of the cast members there, got to dress up and become a Viking. It's something that is kind of still a little bit surreal to me.

"I've never been on a TV show. I never claimed to be an actor. But now I am an actor."

Fresh off avoiding arbitration with a two-year contract worth $28.65 million US, the all-star third baseman is entering his second season with the club.

The differences between this year's camp and spring training last year, he said, are "night and day."

"Last year coming into a new team, a lot of new faces, trying to let everyone get acclimated to me and then really just trying to get to know everybody," Donaldson said. "This year they know who I am, I know most of the faces in there. "This year (the goal) is trying to get the troops on board early on what the objectives are and I'm looking forward to having another good year."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

### DIRT TALK

Donaldson isn't putting too much emphasis on the new dirt infield being installed at Rogers Centre.

All that matters to the reigning AL MVP is the batter's box.

"I really love playing in the Rogers Centre so the fact of the matter is it's not going to matter if it's an all-dirt infield, grass, whatever," he said. "As long as I can hit there I'm fine."

Josh Donaldson crushed 41 home runs last season. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WHL

## Injured Giant Benson ends his own season

Vancouver Giants forward Tyler Benson made the decision to shut himself down for the remainder of the season with a nagging lower-body injury.

Benson told Metro in a phone interview that he made the decision Wednesday after practice.

Tyler Benson GETTY IMAGES

"I was still pretty sore. I didn't really want to continue with that," he said Thursday. "I just want to be healthy for when I return back to the ice next season." He said the injury will not require surgery, just rehab and rest.

Benson missed the start of the season after undergoing surgery to remove a cyst near his tailbone. He then missed nearly two months, from the end of December to late-February, with the lower-body injury that forced him from the CHL Top Prospects Game.

Benson, touted in the fall as a potential first-round pick in the 2016 NHL Draft, briefly returned to the Giants lineup this week, appearing in two games and registering a goal and an assist before his season was ended.

"The first few practices and throughout that first game, I felt good. But after another game, another practice it started to get sore again," he said.

In 30 games, the 17-year-old Benson scored nine goals and 28 points. "I guess there's nothing you can do about it. Frustrating just not being on the ice," he said. "Happiest times are when I'm playing hockey, healthy, so I just want to get back to that."
CAM TUCKER/METRO


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## RECIPE Eggs, Asparagus & Couscous

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This is almost not a recipe at all, which come Friday night is what we all need, right? Tell yourself you're experimenting with one of those trendy grain bowls. Or just sit down and enjoy a speedy dinner.

**Ready in**
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 20 minutes
**Serves 4**

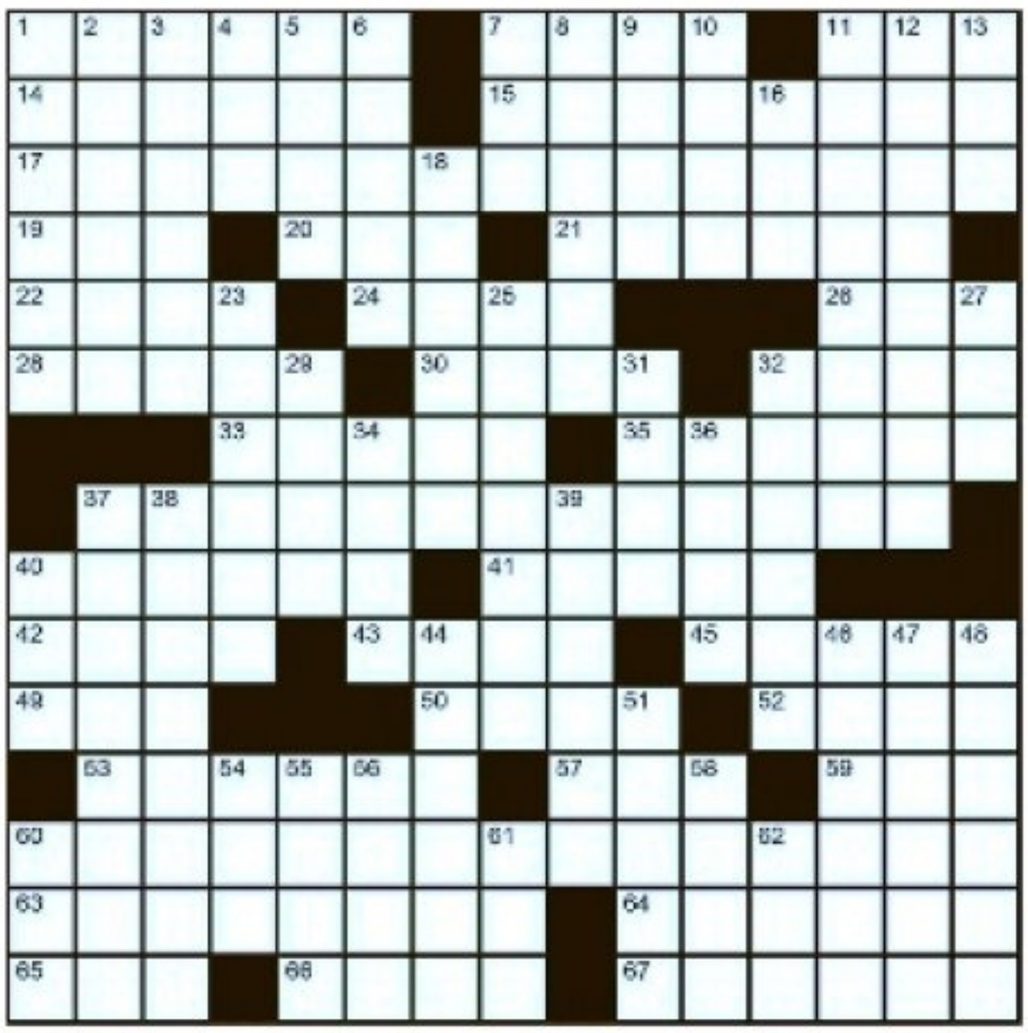
**Ingredients**
- 1 cup couscous
- 16 asparagus spears
- 4 eggs (very fresh poach best)
- 2 tsp vinegar
- Parsley or chives, chopped

**Directions**
**1.** Get three pots of water boiling. One with just a bit of water for the asparagus, a very shallow pan for the eggs and 2 cups of salted water in a pot for the couscous.
**2.** Add couscous to boiling water and stir. It will take up a lot of water right away. After a couple minutes, turn off heat and put the lid on the pot. Leave couscous aside to absorb remaining water.
**3.** Now, poach your eggs. Add vinegar to boiling water. Crack eggs into ramekins. Tip the eggs into the simmering water. Turn off heat, cover the pan and leave alone for 5 minutes.
**4.** In your third pot, put trimmed asparagus in boiling water until they're tender — about 3 to 5 minutes. Drain and rinse in cool water to stop them from cooking.
**5.** Spoon couscous onto your plate, lay down four spears of asparagus then scoop eggs out of the water with a slotted spoon and lay on top. Garnish with chives and salt and pepper.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

## CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



**ACROSS**
1. "Mutual of _ Wild Kingdom"
7. Money __ object
11. EMT's skill
14. Backstreet Boys: "All I __ Give"
15. Tofu: 2 wds.
17. Rapunzel and Rumpelstiltskin: 2 wds.
19. Profession, puny-ly
20. Down
21. Magistrates' mallets
22. Mr. LaBeouf
24. Sprint
26. Mag. edition
28. Actress Katherine
30. Volkswagen Karmann _
32. Person of the Arctic
33. "_ Was a Lady" (1945)
35. As per #37-Down, Canadian diamond producer which found the world's second-largest gem quality diamond in November of 2015
37. Extra extras are needed on a movie set for one: 3 wds.
40. Piano piece
41. English slammers
42. Web address starter
43. "House" role, Dr. Chris _
45. French operas composer, Daniel _ (b.1782 - d.1871)
49. "The 18th letter is known _ '_'."
50. Frankenfoods ingredients, commonly
52. Cornmeal bread
53. Outfitted one
57. Craze
59. Post-op locale
60. Though David Weiser designed it in 1964, it only became one of Canada's official symbols in 2011: 3 wds.
63. Cold sufferer
64. 'B.' of Samuel F.B. Morse
65. Meander
66. Pericles, Prince of _
67. Replied positively

**DOWN**
1. "Goodness me.": 2 wds.
2. Montreal 'market'
3. Swedish DJ/producer
4. Tailor's trimmee
5. 24-hr. bankers
6. To date: 2 wds.
7. There: Latin
8. Composer Mr. Rachmaninoff
9. Quebec water brand
10. A-ha's "The Sun Always Shines __ _-_"
11. The world's largest gem quality diamond, found in South Africa in 1905
12. Stress causer
13. Shortened streets
16. Flight simulators co.
18. Leisurely music tempo
23. Multi-married-man/Newest-wife separator: 2 wds.
25. Enjoy a stick of Juicy Fruit: 2 wds.
27. Music style
29. Milky tip to 'ose'
31. Plus
32. Becomes frozen: 2 wds.
34. "Darn it!"
36. Calif. campus
37. Country in Africa where #35-Across' Karowe Mine is located
38. Fearless
39. Lightly remove a stain: 2 wds.
40. _ Na Na
44. Concurring person
46. Boxes: French
47. Box in
48. Met with former classmates
51. Didn't help: 2 wds.
54. Planet Melmac alien
55. Looted, archaically
56. For Better or For Worse mom
58. Challenge
60. Lettered food additive
61. 'Is', plurally
62. CV

## IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

**Aries** March 21 - April 20
You want to feel that you're doing something useful with your life and with Uranus strong in your sign it's up to you to make that happen. Don't do it alone though, there are others who share your ideals.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21
Do something that gets you noticed and marks you both as a free thinker and person of action. Don't wait for opportunities to come to you, get out there and grab them yourself.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21
If you get the chance to travel today you must take it, even if it means breaking other plans. People you meet while on the move will bring you luck — and maybe love too!

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23
You will have to make a number of quick decisions today. Trust your instincts and they are more likely to be smart decisions. Don't worry if some people make fun of your ideas.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
It may be frustrating that others are putting obstacles in your path but there is no point making a fuss. Just carry on as you are and believe that you will reach your goal when the time is right — and you will.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You could push yourself too hard today and over the weekend and put your wellbeing at risk. A simple rule of thumb: make sure you stay fit and healthy — don't go to extremes.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is virtually nothing you cannot do but that does not mean you are obliged to do everything. Identify the two or three aims, then focus on them to the exclusion of everything else. Success will surely follow.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you rise to the challenges that face you today you'll find ways to overcome. Family ties will work in your favour, so let loved ones know what you need.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Come and go as you please today and over the weekend. Once you get over the fear that others might disapprove of your actions there is nothing that can hold you back.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It feels as if something important is leaving your life but don't worry because something better will replace it. Remember that you deserve the best — because then you will get it.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The Sun left your birth sign a week ago but that does not mean your luck has changed. On the contrary, where money matters are concerned everything seems in order. Put some cash aside for a rainy day.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20
Your mind is being overwhelmed by so senseless chatter. Find a quiet place where you can be on your own, a sacred spot where you can get your thoughts together.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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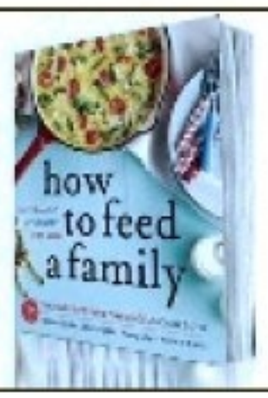


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| 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 1 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| 2 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
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